

Francophone Supervisor Network
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 - 10:00am to 12:00 pm
Minutes

Meeting Highlights:

- The meeting opened at 10:05 am and adjourned at 12:20 pm
- There were eleven (11) attendees including: 7 supervisors; Glory Ressler, ECCDC; Susan Foebel, MCYS; Madeleine Guertin, Collège Boréal, and; Jean McBrain, RMN.
- An ECCDC Resource list and French Training update were shared, as were copies of the results received to-date from the Francophone Child Care Operators Survey.
- Next Meeting date: **Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 from 10am-12pm at the ECCDC.**

Information, Ideas and Tips Shared:

- 1) Susan Foebel encouraged all to attend the Niagara Child Care Sector meeting on June 8th and offered the following information on behalf of MCYS:
 - She attended the inaugural opening of the College of Early Childhood Educators in Toronto on May 12/09 and advised that many new and returning ECEs may not know about the College and requested that all Centres share this information with their new staff
 - Public Health and School Boards sent out H1N1 Virus notices. Some centres have chosen to close sensory centres, as they didn't have running water for hand washing available, while others are using hand sanitizer and providing information to all parents.
 - In June, the Pilot concerning posting summary sheets from Licensing at each centre will begin.
- 2) Jean McBrain encouraged all to attend the next Child Care Sector meeting (June 8th) where more information on e-registration and other activities will be shared and offered the following updates from the Regional Municipality of Niagara:
 - All is progressing well. They are waiting to receive the report from Dr. Pascal.
 - There are no new \$\$ for EA's in classrooms however, centres in need were encouraged to re-apply and to inform the Special Needs Steering Committee, as they are looking at how best to use the resources available.
 - When there are questions related to parent subsidies and hours of care, it was suggested that supervisors: check original agreement, check with parent on whether extra care requests have been approved, check with the Caseworker/Eligibility Officer – an email approval would serve as a record
- 3) Raymonde Lafond provided the following update on the Best Start Francophone Network:
 - No further progress MOE's proposed 2 new Licensed Child Care Centres in Welland
 - They are in the process of re-grouping after Jocelyn Blais-Breton's resignation (now with MOH). Arlene Garand will now take lead.
- 4) Raymonde Lafond shared the need for Francophone back-fill at Quality Child Care Niagara's (QCCN) last Advisory Meeting.
- 5) Glory Ressler shared the results to-date from the Francophone Child Care Operator Survey and made arrangements to obtain the final responses needed from two remaining centres. The group agreed that discussion on consultation next steps should be deferred until the next meeting. Glory also provided the following ECCDC Bilingual Early Learning and Child Care Position Update:

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- Our Bilingual Early Learning and Child Care Resource Consultant Position is now vacant as Laura Hunt relocated out of the area to be closer to her family. As you know, we faced considerable difficulties in recruiting for this position and have interviewed several times and considering all of the recruitment and retention difficulties the entire sector is experiencing, our short term plan is rather than replace this position is to hire an English part-time staff to cover the hours required for library service while contracting French language translation services to continue offering French language materials and resources; French Training Facilitators to deliver French workshops; and French consultant(s) to support the French ELC Sector to identify the needs of Francophone Child Care Programs in Niagara and the development of a plan to address these needs to ensure long term sustainability. Thus in the short term, the only service we will be unable to offer is having French speaking staff onsite. (Although we currently have 3 staff members who are taking French courses weekly with the goal of being able to service French Speaking members onsite in the future). We believe this plan will meet the immediate needs of the French ELC Sector while allowing for flexibility to determine and put in place what is needed in the long term.

Information, Ideas and Tips Shared (cont'd):

- There is an upcoming Cook's Conference in Brantford. Call Claudette for further information.
- The group discussed their various policies concerning late fees for parents and decided to share their policies with each other. They were encouraged to make smart financial and business decisions and to set clear expectations with parents.
- The La Boîte à soleil lead nutrition committee has made some changes to their menu plans including removing hot dogs, fish sticks, chicken nuggets, fries and MSG from the food they serve and they may go with the Palmer group for purchasing in September.
- The group suggested that Normand Savoie at L'ABC Communautaire and/or Louise Baillargeon at the Welland Hospital might be good contacts for 'local' translation support.

Work produced, actions taken or decisions reached:

- The group requested that the ECCDC continue to pursue a bilingual staff person as they would like to have someone onsite to both serve Francophone members in French and to consult on French materials/resources etc... They did indicate that, if this were not a full-time position, the other plans of pursuing translation and training services should move forward as well.
- The network decided to defer discussion of responses until all are received and the staffing issue has been resolved (i.e. likely next meeting).

Upcoming events and sector news:

- The next Niagara Child Care Sector meeting is on June 8, 2009.
- Collège Boréal Fort Erie Open House on June 25, 2009 (offering ESL classes)
- The Network was provided with a list of upcoming ECCDC French Training sessions/workshops

Resources required for next meeting:

- ECCDC resource display
- Update on staffing, training and translation services
- Draft Report of Survey Responses (Glory)
- Next Meeting date: **Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 from 10am-12pm at the ECCDC.**